

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR USING A VASCULAR INTRODUCER WITH AN  
ULTRASONIC PROBE

ABSTRACT

5 An apparatus and a method for using a vascular introducer with an ultrasonic probe to remove a debris from a graft, fistula, vessel, port, or other vascular access device. The vascular introducer for insertion into a vascular access device includes an elongated shaft having a distal end and a proximal insertion end; an anchoring mechanism that resides within the elongated shaft when the anchoring mechanism is in a retracted position and extends beyond the proximal insertion end of the elongated shaft and engages an inner surface of the vascular access device when the anchoring mechanism is in an extended position; and an activation mechanism that moves the anchoring mechanism from the retracted position to the extended position. The vascular introducer may further include a rotation mechanism that allows the vascular introducer to change direction within the vascular access device without being removed from the vascular access device.